

Contact: Tresia Webb 573-888-6664

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$ 2,770,000.00 TO THE CITY OF STEELE

Greg Branum, the Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, presented a Mock Check in the amount of \$2,770,000 to Mayor Mike Davis on January 9, 2006, in a ceremony held at the Steele City Hall. The mock check represents approval of \$2,126,000 Water and Waste Loan funds and a \$644,000 Grant funds for the upgrade to the City's water treatment plant with new aerators, repainting the sedimentation basin, new pressure filter, upgrading the existing backup well and upgrading the water distributions lines.

U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson said "Water quality goes hand-in-hand with the quality of life in Southern Missouri, and it is essential that we keep our water treatment plants in top condition. Steele will benefit from these upgrades in tangible ways, including the job opportunities that accompany a project of this scope. I am glad USDA Rural Development has identified this way to make a major, meaningful investment in the community. I look forward to working with our U.S. Senators to fund more investments into our rural communities such as this one."



1st row: Art Cole; Cindy Northern; Greg Branum; Katna Whitledge, City Clerk; Jarad Southard, City Employee; David Bishop, Mayor; and Tresia Webb

2nd row: Terry Luetkemeyer; Jason Perry, City Engineer; Danny Robertson, Alderman Ward 1; and Rich Cochran, Waters Engineering

"I would like to personally thank everyone involved in this project," Branum said. "Financing essential services in support of a community is consistent with USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's commitment to the future of rural communities."

"As the Mayor of Steele I am very grateful that USDA is participating in helping our City prepare for the future," stated Mike Davis.

"Our City has struggled for many years with old water lines that date back to the 1920's. A water plant that struggled everyday to pump the water to all our citizens. This project will give our City a new water plant and many new water lines in every part of our town. A new water tank on the eastside of town will solve our water pressure problems that has existed for many years.

"As Mayor I feel my job is to help our community plan for the future. The infrastructure of our town is what will sustain our community for many years. It will help our town reach out and attach new businesses and new jobs for our citizens. It will give our residents the assurance of quality water service for many years," said Davis.

“Our City owes special thanks to U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson and U.S. Senator Christopher “Kit” Bond for their efforts in having this project reopened and finally approved. Both offices worked hard to help this small community get the quality water service we will have for many years.

U.S.D.A. has been a great partner in helping our community over the last ten years. They helped with a new fire truck eight years ago and now with a major water project. Once again I want to thank all the employees of U.S.D.A from Southeast Missouri and Jefferson City for their help in this project.”

Branum added, “Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators “Kit” Bond and Jim Talent plus U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project.

Anyone interested in obtaining assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or can contact Tresia Webb, Rural Development Manager, at the Kennett Local Office of USDA Rural Development at 704 North Bypass, Kennett, MO 63857 or by calling 573-888-6664.

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